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Gang Member Charged with Attempted Murder, Carjacking, Other Crimes

A gang member accused of trying to carjack a man, and then shot at him, was charged today, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Jessie Abbott Duran (dob 2/3/90), of Whittier, is charged in case VA134599 with one count each of attempted carjacking, attempted murder, shooting at an occupied motor vehicle and possession of a firearm by a felon – four priors.

He is scheduled to be arraigned April 14 at the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Norwalk Branch. The felony complaint includes special allegations that the defendant personally and intentionally discharged a handgun. Additionally, that the crimes were committed for the benefit and at the direction of, and in association with a criminal street gang, and with the intent to promote, further, and assist in criminal conduct by gang members.

Furthermore, the charging document alleges that Duran was convicted of short barreled shotgun or rifle activity in 2010 and 2011, possession of methamphetamine in 2012 and carrying a dirk or dagger in 2013.

Prosecutors said that on April 3 a man was sitting in a car near his Whittier home when Duran allegedly walked up to the vehicle and demanded the car. The victim refused to give up his vehicle, drove away and alerted police.

The victim drove back to his home, prosecutors said, when he saw Duran coming at him again. The two men had an exchange and the defendant reportedly began shooting at the victim, before fleeing the area. Although the victim was uninjured, one of the bullets hit a passing car.

Authorities were able to locate the defendant soon after the incident and he was arrested and held on \$2 million bail.

If convicted as charged, Duran faces a maximum sentence of life in state prison.

The case was investigated by the Whittier Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</u> prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.